

Kuila: 310200L

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DE WTE 3282 2441135

O 311134Z AUG 72
FM SITUATION ROOM
TO RODMAN FOR MR KISSINGER
ZEM
UNCLAS WH27243

O. O. B.

O 310855Z AUG 72
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO RUEHC /SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8565
INFO RUHHHQA /CINCPAC IMMEDIATE
RUHHBRA /CINCPACFLT IMMEDIATE
RUMMOPA /COMUSJAPAN IMMEDIATE
RUADLBA /COMNAVFORJAPAN IMMEDIATE
BT
UNCLAS TOKYO 9334
CINCPAC PASS PRESIDENTIAL PARTY FOR ERICSON
SUBJECT: PRESS REPORT OF US ATTACK CARRIER AT YOKOSUKA
1. AFTERNOON AUGUST 31 KYODO NEWS SERVICE CARRIED FOLLOWING
REPORT:

BEGIN TEXT

THE UNITED STATES WILL PROBABLY ASK JAPAN TO ALLOW THE USE OF
YOKOSUKA AS A MOTHER PORT FOR ITS ATTACK CARRIERS WHEN PRESIDENT
RICHARD NIXON MEETS PRIME MINISTER KAKEUI TANAKA FOR THEIR SUMMIT
TALKS IN HAWAII, DEFENSE AGENCY SOURCES SAID THURSDAY.
THE SOURCES SAID CHANCES ARE THAT THE US SIDE WILL TAKE UP THIS
SUBJECT AT A DINNER TABLE RATHER THAN AT THE FORMAL TALKS.
THE SOURCES SAID THEIR ANALYSIS OF THE RECENT VIETNAM SITUATION
AND THE MOVEMENT OF THE US SEVENTH FLEET IN THE WESTERN PACIFIC
SHOWED THAT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO REJECT THE AMERICAN REQUEST.
HOWEVER, JAPAN'S DOMESTIC POLITICAL SITUATION IS SUCH THAT EVEN

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IF JAPAN AGREED TO THE US REQUEST IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO MAKE PUBLIC THE AGREEMENT IN A FORMAL DOCUMENT, THE SOURCES SAID. THEREFORE, IT IS LIKELY THAT THE TWO COUNTRIES WILL CONCLUDE 'A SECRET DEAL' ON THE ISSUE, ACCORDING TO THE SOURCES.

AN ANALYSIS BY THE AGENCY'S MILITARY EXPERTS SHOWS A RAPID INCREASE IN THE SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES OF THE US SEVENTH FLEET SINCE THE BIG NORTH VIETNAMESE OFFENSIVE IN LATE MARCH.

AT PRESENT, THE TOTAL NUMBER OF US VESSELS IN THE WESTERN PACIFIC IS ESTIMATED AT 140, INCLUDING SIX ATTACK CARRIERS.

IN ADDITION TO 780 NAVY PLANES, ABOUT 900 B52 BOMBERS AIR FORCE PLANES, INCLUDING 200, (SIC) ARE PARTICIPATING IN COMBAT OPERATIONS IN VIETNAM.

THE AIR FORCE AND NAVAL COMBAT STRENGTH HAS DOUBLED SINCE MARCH, THE EXPERTS NOTED.

REFLECTING THE US MILITARY OPERATIONS IN VIETNAM, THE NUMBER OF ATOMIC-POWERED SUBMARINES ENTERING JAPANESE PORTS HAS VISIBLY INCREASED IN RECENT MONTHS.

A TOTAL OF 15 N-POWERED SUBMARINES HAVE MADE PORT CALLS IN JAPAN DURING THE PAST SIX MONTHS. END TEXT

2. IF QUERIED ON PRESS REPORT, EMBASSY PLANS TO RESPOND AS FOLLOWS: "WE HAVE NO OFFICIAL WORD ON THIS. IF THERE WERE TO BE ANYTHING, IT WOULD HAVE TO COME FROM WASHINGTON OR HONOLULU."

SHOESMITH

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